(d) and (e) Jute industry is not being ruined due to non-availability of jute. A record production of 82.24 lakh bales of jute is estimated at all India level during 1996-97 as against 79.2 lakh bales in 1990-91. Further, in order to increase production and productivity and to improve the quality of fibre, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Special Jute Development Programme (SJDP) is implemented in 8 major Jute/Mesta growing States. Under the scheme, assistance is given for distribution of certified seeds of improved varieties, essential nutrients for crop growth, conducting of technology demonstration, excavation of retting tanks, distribution of fungal culture packets for improving the quality of jute fibre and conducting farmers training.

Ezhava Community

4800. SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Kerala has issued any Executive Order specifying additional Communities being included in the Ezhava Community; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Development of Animal Husbandry

4801. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state:

(a) whether any techniques have been developed for the development of Animal Husbandry and Dairying by any research institute;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the steps taken to impart knowledge to the concerned people and encourage them; and

(d) the efforts being made to check the continuous decline in the number of various animals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI RAGHUVANS PRASAD SINGH) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Several techniques have been developed for the development of Animal Husbandry and Dairying by I.C.A.R. Details of major techniques is given in the statement enclosed.

(c) Knowledge is imparted and disseminated primarily through Krishi Vigyan Kendras, extension departments of Scientific institutes of ICAR, and operational research projects. Special courses, teachers training programmes and village linked programmes are also conducted to impart technical know-how and information in this sector.

(d) As per the 1992 Livestock Census there is no continuous decline in the number of various animals.

Statement

Major Techniques developed by ICAR for Animal Husbandry and Dairying Development.

- Development/Standardization of Processes and techniques for the manufacture of the milk and milk products.
- Development of equipments for manufacture of dairy products, such as :

  Paneer making gadget for small scale application.

  Cream separator attachment for domestic mixies and food processors.

  Continuous Khova making machine.
- Instrument for measuring powder losses from spray dryer exhaust.
- Development of dairy farm appliances.
- A fatigue test score developed for evaluating draught performance of animals which is popularly used.
- Semen extender pased on milk whey for buffalo semen developed.
- Highly sensitive antiserum against progesterone has been developed.
- A simple diagnosing kit "PRAMAN" for pregnancy/non pregnancy detection in buffaloes on days 22-24 post insemination developed. The kits make use of disposable droppers and inexpensive consumables.
- Two new strains of cattle, namely Karan Swiss and Karan Fries developed by cross breeding, followed by selection.
- To detect genetic abnormalities in farm-animals, various Cytogenetic techniques standardised. Cytogenetic profiles of various breeds of cattle, buffaloes and goats elucidated.
- Development of Hansa test for detection of edulteration of cow milk with buffalo milk.
- Development of package of management practices to reduce calf mortality.

- Development of milk replacer for economic raising of calves and to save milk for human consumption.

- Development of 'Degcure' for curing Degnala disease.

- Development of suitable forage crop rotations to ensure supply of green fodder round the year.

- Urea molasses block lick developed for use as a food source of nitrogen and minerals to cattle during scarcity period.

- Protocol for induction of lactation in indigenous cows and buffaloes developed.

- Procedures developed and standardised for estrus syncbronisation and supervoulation using different hormone combinations in cattle and buffaloes.

- Protocol for embryo transfer technolgoy standardised for cattle and buffalo and being currenly used under field conditions.

- Procedures for in vitro maturation and in vitro fertilization of buffalo oocyles developed.

- A quick three hour quantitative RIA test for progeslerone in milk and plasma developed.

- EIA for progesterone determination in milk and blood plasma developed.

[English]

Monitoring of Ecological Problems

4802. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether due to gradually declining wildlife in the country and also due to an unchecked growth in cattle population eating away our grass land and depleting earth's green cover there is a serious threat to the ecological balance and damage of flora and fauna;

(b) whether there is any regular Government agency which carries on a systematic monitoring of such ecological problems;

(c) is so, the work done by it during the last three years; and

(d) if not, the steps Government propose to take for the preservation of nature-healthy environment?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) Biotic interference in the forest areas, including grazing by cattle, does cause damage to the fauna and flora and loss of green cover.

(b) and (c) The Forest Survey of India (FSI), under this Ministry assesses the change in forest cover of the country every two years using satellite data and data from extensive field surveys. The fifth such assessment of forest cover has been published as "The State of Forest Report 1995". The assessment also includes an analysis of the reasons for the change in forest cover, the extent of damage due to fire and grazing, and the regeneration status of the forest areas.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Distribution of Cotton Seeds

4803. SHRI N.J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the total quantity of cotton seeds distributed to farmers in the tribal, backward and rural areas of Gujarat during the last three years, till date;

(b) the details of the variety of cotton seeds being cultivated in the State;

(c) the total production of cotton in the State during the said period; and

(d) the assistance/techniques to be provided to Gujarat by the Union Government for increasing the production of cotton?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) The total quantity of cotton seed distributed to needy farmers of tribal as well as non-tribal areas of Gujarat State during the last three years is as under:

Quantity in Quintals

Year	Total
1994-95	94,451
1995-96	96,281
1996-97	94,154

(b) The details of varieties of cotton seeds being cultivated in the State are as under :

(i) Digvijay (ii) V-797 (iii) Sanjya (iv) Deviraj (v) Gujcot-10 (vi) Gujcot-11 (vii) Gujcot-12 (viii) Gujcot-13 (ix) Gujcot-15 (x) Gujcot-16 (xi) Gujcot-17 (xii) Hy-4 (xiii) Hy-6 (xiv) Hy-8 (xv) Hy-9 (xvi) Hy-10 (xvii) LRA-5166 (xviii) DCH-32 (xix) Varalaxmi (xx) NHH-44, etc.